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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30

1940

Publication of this Document Approved by the Commission on Administration and Finance
400-12-41-8004

Mass. Secretary of the Commonwealth
Mar 5, 1942

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DIVISION OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING

20 Somerset St., Boston
November 30, 1940

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled:

The Division of Metropolitan Planning herewith respectfully submits its annual report for the year ending November 30, 1940:

Rapid Transit

After many years interest in the proposed Huntington Avenue Subway, the Division looks forward to the completion of this project which is scheduled for January, 1941.

Some preliminary thought has been given to the feasibility and desirability of a new shuttle subway across the business section of the city from the Post Office Square district to Park Street.

The Division has also considered the desirability of reducing the size of the seldom used subway incline in Cambridge Street, Boston, in order to provide better highway facilities in this heavily travelled street.

Highways

Boston — Mayor's Conference on Traffic

Mayor Maurice J. Tobin, in January, established the Mayor's Conference on Traffic consisting of representatives of many civic and governmental groups for the purpose of devising plans to alleviate Boston's serious traffic problems. As members of the Projects Committee of the Conference, the representatives of this Division cooperated with the City Planning Board, the Boston Traffic Commission, and other agencies, in the preparation of plans and estimates of various highway improvements destined to relieve congestion and facilitate the smooth flow of traffic. The Projects Committee has recommended to the Conference the following projects (those marked * had been studied and recommended by this Division in the past):

1. *Central Artery (elevated highway)
2. *Blue Hills Radial
3. Dover Street Widening
4. *Rutherford Avenue Widening, Charlestown
5. Porter Street Widening, East Boston
6. *Traffic Circle at Brookline Avenue and Park Drive
7. *Dorchester Avenue Widening
8. Kenmore Square Busway
9. Embankment Road Extension
10. *American Legion Highway Extension
11. *Gerry's Landing Bridge.

It is expected that drafts of legislation to carry the recommendations into effect will be filed with the incoming Legislature.

Local Planning Boards

During the year the Division's staff has maintained contact with the local planning boards in the district by numerous visits and conferences. Some of the matters considered and studied as a result of these conferences are as follows:

Arlington—Study of access to Concord Turnpike.

Braintree, Weymouth—Study of traffic conditions, Route 3 at Weymouth Landing.

Brookline—Brookline Village (Worcester Turnpike)
Cottage Farm Bridge intersection.

Canton—Ponkapoag intersection (Route 138 and Washington Street) and possible bypass of business section.

Medford—Medford Square and "Gravelly Creek" highway.

Stoneham, Reading and *Wakefield*—Study of proposed bypass to carry Route 28 around the centres of these towns.

Saugus—Study of possible widening of Lynn Fells Parkway.

Weston—Proposed circumferential Route 128.

Westwood—Intersection study, Pond, Nahatan and High Streets.

The Division has, as usual, been constantly in touch with the Department of Public Works and the Metropolitan District Commission in matters looking toward the general improvement of transportation facilities in the district.

To the incoming Legislature of 1941, the Division will again recommend a six-year program of highway development in the Metropolitan District. The following projects will be recommended:

1. Circumferential Highway (Route 128). Completion of the northern portion from the Worcester Turnpike in Wellesley to the Newburyport Turnpike in Lynnfield, also a short distance in Hingham to the Nantasket Road. (Approximately two miles are now under construction in Lynnfield and Wakefield.)
2. General traffic route, Canton-Randolph-Braintree.
3. Inner Circumferential, or Milton-Quincy Highway.
4. Watertown-Newton-Waltham Highway.
5. Extension of Concord Highway—Alewife Brook Parkway to Porter Square, Cambridge.
6. Portion in District of New York Highway—Milton to Walpole.
7. Extension of American Legion Highway to Washington Street, Boston.
8. Extension of Middlesex Turnpike to Concord Highway in Lexington.
9. Extension of McLellan Highway from Day Square to the Sumner Tunnel, East Boston.
10. Dorchester Avenue widening, Boston.
11. Gerry's Landing Bridge and connections, Boston and Cambridge.
12. Memorial Drive extension to Arsenal Street, Cambridge and Watertown.
13. Circle at intersection of Northern Artery and Prison Point Viaduct, Cambridge.
14. Grade separations at intersection of Northern Artery and Washington Street, Somerville.
15. Grade separation at intersection of Washington Street and Boylston Street, Brookline Village.

16. Grade separation at Arborway and Washington Street, Forest Hills, Boston.
17. Traffic circle at Boylston Street, Park Drive and Riverway, Boston.
18. Grade separation at Commonwealth Avenue and Cottage Farm Bridge, Boston.
19. Grade separations and traffic circles at Revere Beach Parkway, Broadway and Main Street, Everett.

Maps and Bulletins

The record maps of the district have been revised and kept up to date and the publication of a monthly bulletin concerning planning matters has continued.

Financial Statement

Appropriation and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ending November 30, 1940

Appropriation	$20,082.93
Expenditures	16,997.51
Balance reverted	$ 3,085.42

Financial Statement Verified.
Approved. Walter S. Morgan, *Comptroller.*

Respectfully submitted,

Division of Metropolitan Planning

By

Arthur W. Dean, *Chairman*
Lester Watson, *Vice Chairman*
Frederick J. Mahony
Paul C. Ryan
John M. Whouley
William F. Rogers
Daniel P. McGillicuddy

Henry I. Harriman, *Director.*